

APPROVED: Meeting No. 06-96

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 02-96

January 16, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Public Hearing in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, January 16, 1996, at 7:32 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: Special City Manager's Report

Mr. Kuckkahn updated the Mayor and Council on snow removal efforts in the City. He said that in terms of the residential sidewalk clearing policy, the City's legal experts advised that the City needed to be consistent with court actions and with some reasonableness. Mr. Kuckkahn explained that enforcement would begin as of the January 12th snow storm. Warnings will be issued with supplements indicating to homeowners that they need to clear a path between property lines, so that pedestrians could walk

an entire length of the street with reasonable safety. On corners where snow is piled up, residents are asked to provide a pathway around the piles of snow.

The January 12 storm will also be the start date for enforcement of the policy for commercial establishments. Businesses are asked to provide some reasonable way for pedestrians to move from property line to property line on the business frontages. Commercial owners are also faced with the difficult problems of piled up snow at intersections. Owners are also asked to shovel around the corners to provide a reasonable way for pedestrians to move around the City. Inspectors will return for follow-up inspections later in the week. Mr. Kuckkahn complimented the community on the efforts put forth to clear sidewalks.

Mr. Kuckkahn said that another safety issue was the condition of Rockville Pike. Rockville Pike and Hungerford Drive were the State's responsibility and while the City was not involved in clearing this road, Mr. Kuckkahn said that he made a decision to put some of the City's resources onto Rockville Pike to alleviate the tremendous traffic backups occurring because of reduced lanes. Although the City has limited resources, they were attempting to clear the intersections of Route 28 and 355 and would continue to work on clearing turning lanes and working with the Police Department in an attempt to improve safety.

Mr. Kuckkahn said that many concerns had also been expressed about the amount of snow on residential and commercial roofs in the City and the effect that anticipated rains would have. Mr. Kuckkahn urged residents to stay off their roofs which

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were slippery and dangerous to persons attempting to clear snow from the roof. He also said that Inspection Services staff felt that given the amount of thaw, a rain would not adversely impact the vast majority of roofs in the City; however, citizens were urged to clear their storm drains.

Mr. Kuckkahn noted a tragedy that occurred where a child in Virginia suffocated when a snow fort collapsed on her in the presence of her parents.

Mr. Kuckkahn emphasized that parents should not allow their children to play in and around piles of snow.

Mr. Kuckkahn said that he made a decision not to send the City's refuse crews out to pick up trash; the refuse crews are also involved in removing snow from the City's routes, and a decision was made to relieve them of their refuse duties. With the second storm on January 12, crews had to be shifted back to perform snow plow operations.

Councilmember Marrinan supported the City Manager's decision to assist with snow removal on Route 355; he said it was a major safety issue and a major inconvenience because the City's plowed streets were being used as cut-through routes and were then backing up because drivers could not get across Route 355. Mr. Marrinan said there was also an adverse impact on the business community and he said that the issue of the State's priorities regarding this road's clearing needed to be broached with the State as it was noticed that other areas of Route 355 outside of the City had been plowed.

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Councilmember Dorsey implored residents to be considerate of their neighbors and try to be patient with the State, City and County as efforts were made to remove snow. He said that he received many telephone calls, some complimentary, however many were unpleasant.

Mayor Krasnow also expressed her support for Mr. Kuckkahn's decision to put additional resources on Route 355. She said it was a serious problem and it was not understood why the State's response had been lacking as it hurt the City's residents and businesses. Mayor Krasnow said that the City tried to use discretion in understanding what businesses and residents faced in trying to clear their sidewalks and enforcement of the policy had been difficult. However, she said that any one watching school children walking in the streets in an attempt to get to school would understand why the City must pursue enforcement of the policy.

Re: Continuance of Text Amendment
TXT95-0152

Mayor Krasnow noted that the Mayor and Council had originally scheduled to hear the Text Amendment application on November 27, 1995. At that time, the Applicant, Linowes and Blocher requested that the hearing be postponed until January 16, 1996. The applicant informed the Planning staff that they were not ready to go forth to public hearing tonight and they requested that the matter be postponed further to March 18, 1996 in order to allow time to contact the neighborhood groups and property

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owners. Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the public hearing on TXT95-1052 was continued to March 18, 1996.

Re: Public Hearing Re Transfer of
Lot 7, located on the north side
of Middle Lane to the east of the
planned Maryland Avenue
extension to Beall Avenue.

The Mayor and Council held a public hearing on a proposal to enter into an Agreement with Rockville Center, Inc., which would provide for the transfer of certain unimproved and unsubdivided real property, under certain conditions, commonly known as "Lot 7," which consists of approximately 1.5 acres of land, for consideration in the amount of \$2,163,200.00. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons whose names can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to testify, Mayor Krasnow declared the public hearing closed, with the record to remain open until 5:00 p.m. on February 12.

Re: Public Hearing Re Gude Drive
Special Assessments

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on Project No. 9C11, a proposal to levy assessments against properties specially benefitted by the construction of Gude Drive from Research Boulevard to State Route 355. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons whose names can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There

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being no other persons wishing to testify, Mayor Krasnow declared the public hearing closed, with the record to remain open until March 11, 1996.

Re: Citizens Forum

1. Kenneth Fisher, Community Ministries of Rockville reported that Reverend Mansfield Kaseman was recuperating from surgery and was doing well. Mr. Fisher thanked the City for its support of Community Ministries and said that he would be available to the Mayor and Council until Mr. Kaseman was able to return to work.

2. Carol Hannaford, 5718 Wainwright Avenue congratulated the City for doing a good job with snow removal. Regarding the City's program to provide assistance to those needing help with snow removal, Ms. Hannaford said that she had volunteered for this program three years ago and was never called to perform. When she inquired as to why, she was informed that either her name was incorrect on the list or that she was not on the list of volunteers. Ms. Hannaford remarked that she was a volunteer for a similar program provided by Channel 7, and she had been dispatched on a number of occasions to locations to assist persons that were in or near the City of Rockville.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

1. Councilmember Marrinan asked that staff follow up on the proposal by Best Buy Store to install a traffic signal in front of the store on Route 355. He clarified that while this was not the City's responsibility, the Mayor and Council had received a letter from Woodmont County Club regarding the Store's plans to place a traffic light near the store. The light was originally scheduled for installation at the end of November.

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2. Mayor Krasnow noted the many initiatives made by the Rockville Chamber of Commercial and local businesses to contribute refreshments to the City's snow removal crews and the offer to provide refreshments to the City's police force. Ms. Krasnow said that all of the efforts on behalf of the Chamber and local businesses were greatly appreciated. Mr. Kuckkahn added that the sustenance and thoughts were also very much appreciated by the snow crews.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting adjourned 8:34 p.m., to reconvene in General Session at 7:30 p.m., on January 22, 1996, or at the call of the Mayor.